

the Roadrunner

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

April/May 2003

Tulip Time ...

Spring blossoms have arrived just in time to ward away winter's dreary doldrums.

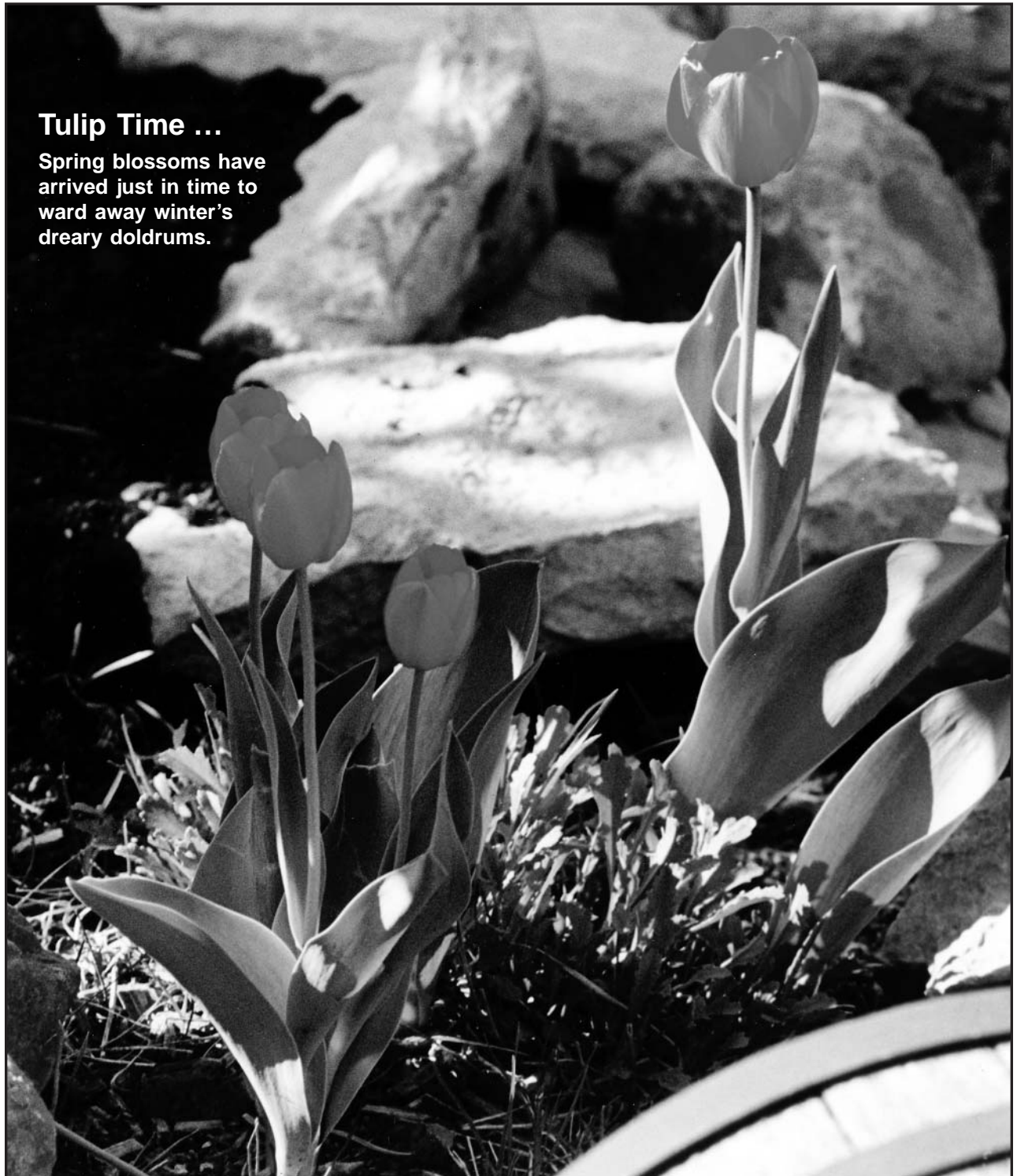


Photo by Jay Bailey

Job Recruitment Memories



Randy Peters

By Randy Peters
Traffic Engineer

Lately I've been involved in a lot of healthy discussions about succession planning and how to recruit the next generation of leaders at Roads, especially to our district locations. It made me think of my first encounter with a "formal" recruiting scheme.

I grew up in Bloomfield. The summer I was about to turn 16 I was sure I needed my own car. My Dad's position was that if I needed it so bad I better find a way to pay for it. There weren't too many high-paying summer jobs to be had in Bloomfield so I combed through the want ad section of the Norfolk Daily News

until I came across one that caught my imagination. It read: **"Ranch Labor Needed. Good Pay. No Long Hours. Apply at Skull Lake Ranch. Wood Lake, Nebraska."**

So it came about that on one sunny Sunday morning in early June, 1971, my parents loaded me and my friend, Dave Grady, and our bags into Dad's '68 Impala, and headed west on Highway 20. After a full morning of driving I got my first glimpse of the great Nebraska sandhills. Talk about an impact! When we turned off of the state highway at Wood Lake I felt a little like Neal Armstrong making his descent onto the moon, only our landing module was Dad's Chevy and there was maybe a little more grass. Half an hour later we drove through the welded entrance gate that marks the headquarters and home place of the Skull Lake Ranch.

Skull Lake was a family enterprise that encompassed 17,000 acres of land, close to a thousand head of cattle, thirty or forty horses, two airplanes, assorted jeeps, tractors, sweeps, sleds, mowers, rakes and one old Caterpillar, the kind with steel tracks. There was more than fifty miles of barbed wire fence. The work force included, in order of rank, three Haifs children, a one-armed hay boss from Mexico, a mechanic, and three ranch hands from the nearby Rosebud reservation. As we pulled onto the place its sole proprietor, Mr. Paul Haifs, strode out to meet us.

The cattleman exchanged greetings with my parents and invited all of us into his home. While Mrs. Haifs served iced tea, Mr. Haifs turned a critical eye on Grady and me. After some small talk we eventually got down to business. "Can you lift a bale?" "You bet." "Do you mind working outdoors for ten or twelve hours a day?" "Whatever it takes." "Well then, there's plenty of work to be done. I'll give you jobs if you can meet the one published qualification."

It turns out the ad in the newspaper contained a misprint. What he had intended to read "no long hairs" the paper had printed as "no long hours."

There were powerful motivational forces at work on both sides of the employment negotiation.

Monday morning we drove the 14 miles back into Wood Lake and got the town barber to give us the prerequisite haircuts. The recruitment terms were met. We were hired men.

That was life in the seventies.

Whatever action we take to strengthen our recruiting in the new millennium, I'm sure it will be a giant step in the direction of progress. ♦

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Service Awards

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals for their work and continued service with the Department of Roads. They celebrate their service dates in *April* and *May*.

50 Years

Louis Wenzel, Materials & Research

40 Years

Robert Fischer, Right-of-Way
Ronald Hansen, Roadway Design
Donald Schulz, Right-of-Way
John Stahl, District 8

30 Years

Mark Barnesberger, Mat'ls. & Research
Walter Cabe, District 2
Dennis Endorf, District 1
Rodney Favors, District 3
Pege Gross Rhode, Communication
Dan Lange, District 1
Donald Norcott, District 5
Jerry Woods, District 8

20 Years

Roger Blankenbaker, District 4
Gary Brinker, District 6
Dale Byre Jr., Materials & Research
Dean DeButts, Materials & Research
Dean Dowding, District 1
Steven Ferguson, Bridge
Michael Fitl, District 1
Michael Freeman, District 8
Stanley Frye, District 2
Stanley Gibbs, District 6
Scott Grossenbacher, Mat'ls. & Research
Michael Habegger, District 1
Steven Javorsky, Materials & Research
Bernice Kepford, Communication
David Luhning, Materials & Research
Michael McIntosh, District 6
Mae Meyer, District 4
Steven Moore, Planning & Proj. Develop.
Jimmy Morphew, District 6
Charles Thomsen, District 6
Marty Weander, District 2
Timothy Weander, District 2

10 Years

Rodney, Harmon, District 8
James Delarm, District 4
Kim Svec, Rail & Public Transportation
Kristi Van Ooyen, Bridge

Weander New District 2 Engineer

Tim Weander was named the new District 2 Engineer in Omaha for the Nebraska Department of Roads. District 2 includes Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties. Weander, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds John Jacobsen, who was promoted to Deputy Director of Operations for the department after serving 10 years in his position.

For 19 years, Weander has worked at the Roads Department in a variety of capacities, including serving as District 5 Engineer in Bridgeport for the past seven years. Born in Ainsworth, Weander is a second-generation NDOR employee. His father, Leonard Weander, worked at the department for 43 years, including 17 years as Construction Engineer in District 1, Lincoln area.

Weander started at NDOR in 1983, after receiving his construction management degree from the



Tim Weander

University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He served six years as a project manager in Omaha. He then served six years in the Roadway Design Division in Lincoln, two years as a designer in the Expressway Design Section, and four years as a design unit head in the Interstate Design Section. Weander was responsible

for design of Omaha's 13th, 42nd, 72nd and 84th Street interchanges reconstruction of Interstate 80.

After serving three months as District Construction Engineer in Grand Island, Weander was named District 5 Engineer in 1996. During his tenure as District 5 Engineer, Weander was responsible for a variety of projects, including the continued expansion of Nebraska Highway 71 from a two-lane highway to an expressway from Kimball to Scottsbluff.

Weander said he has enjoyed his career with the department,

particularly the accomplishments of constructing and maintaining the state's highways, and the friendships he has established with people in all parts of the state.

Several goals Weander would like to achieve as District 2 Engineer include continuing with the successful reconstruction of the interstate and expressway systems, the successful completion of the 114th and Dodge project, advancing the intelligent transportation systems integration in the metro area and maintaining the good pavement conditions of District 2.

"I plan to continue the good relationships with the public and elected officials that have been established in the District. I also plan to establish and maintain a good relationship with the employees in District 2."

Weander, 42, and his wife, Alice, have three children, Nate, Nick and Katie. In addition to spending time with his family, Weander enjoys hunting, camping and hiking. ♦

Lind Appointed District 5 Engineer

Craig R. Lind is the new District 5 Engineer in Bridgeport for the Nebraska Department of Roads. District 5 includes Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sioux and Sheridan counties. Lind, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Tim Weander, who was recently named the new District 2 Engineer in Omaha.

For 32 years, Lind has worked at the Roads Department in a variety of capacities, including serving as Construction Engineer in District 5 for the past 20 years. Born and raised in central Minnesota, Lind attended college at North Dakota State University and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1970. He began his career at NDOR that same year.

Lind served 13 years in the Roadway Design Division in Lincoln, both as a designer and a design unit leader. In 1983, he was named District 5 Construction Engineer. In this capacity, Lind assisted with a variety of construction projects, including the continued expansion of Nebraska Highway 71 from a two-lane highway to an expressway from Kimball to Scottsbluff.

Safety will continue to be Lind's "number one" goal for both employees and for the traveling public. He believes leadership within the district needs to be encouraged, through active participation by NDOR employees on district teams such as safety and rewards and recognition.



Craig Lind

Lind advocates an open-door policy and maintaining open lines of communication to discuss ideas and resolve any problems.

"If an employee feels something is wrong, bring it up and let's discuss it and make a decision. Don't automatically assume everything can be done

only one way. If you have a better idea, let's talk about it."

Lind and his wife, Marguerite, have been married since 1976. They have three cats. In his spare time, Lind enjoys playing golf and collecting antique golf equipment, antique survey instruments and old maps of Nebraska and Minnesota. He also enjoys doing woodworking projects. ♦

Schuyler Hwy. 30 Expressway Moving Ahead to Completion

Work on the Highway 30 expressway project at Schuyler is progressing well, according to David Anderson, NDOR District 3 Project Manager in Columbus. Work on the project, which begins about four miles east of Schuyler and runs to about two miles east, calls for four lanes with two overpasses in the Schuyler area.

A unique aspect of this project involves the method of obtaining sand and gravel for the subgrade through dredging operations. The prime contractor, Dobson Brothers Construction Company of Lincoln, has employed three dredging companies, Central Sand and Gravel of Columbus; T & F Sand and Gravel of Elm Creek; and Mallard Sand and Gravel of Valley.

Dredging occasionally has occurred 24 hours a day and has been done both on state and private property. Several lakes have been created in the process, each 50 to 60 feet deep. The dredging companies then pipe a sand-and-water mixture to the project site. Some of the lengths of pipe are an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 feet in length. To date, the three companies have dredged approximately 1,500,000 cubic meters of sand and gravel. Plans call for another 192,500 cubic meters of sand and gravel.

Work on the project began in May 2002 and is scheduled for completion in fall 2004. The prime contractor is predicting possible completion as

early as December 2003. Grading is approximately 90 percent complete. Two bridges will be completed in early May and another two bridges will be completed in mid-to-late May, with paving to begin around June 1st.

Dobson Brothers Construction Company of Lincoln is the prime contractor for the project with an estimated contract cost of \$19,184,952. Schemmer and Associates of Omaha designed the project, and Khalil Jaber, Lincoln, was the NDOR project design coordinator. Members of the District construction team are Project Manager David Anderson, Danny Bock, Jim Carney, Monty Koch, Gary Schmid and Troy Shotkoski, District 3. ♦



Top left - A dredge on one of the lakes that was created during operations used to obtain sand and gravel for the subgrade.

Above - Construction workers erect a mechanically stabilized earth wall for a bridge abutment on the Highway 30 expressway project at Schuyler.

Left - During dredging operations, pipes send a sand-and-water mixture to the project site to provide the sand and gravel needed for the subgrade.

Highway Work Zones Require Drivers' Patience and Vigilance

The 2003 construction season is underway in Nebraska. With more than 260 state highway construction projects planned for April through December, there is an increased potential for traffic congestion and safety challenges. The Nebraska Department of Roads urges drivers to use extra caution when approaching highway work zones. By slowing down and staying alert, motorists can reduce or prevent the risk for accidents or injuries.

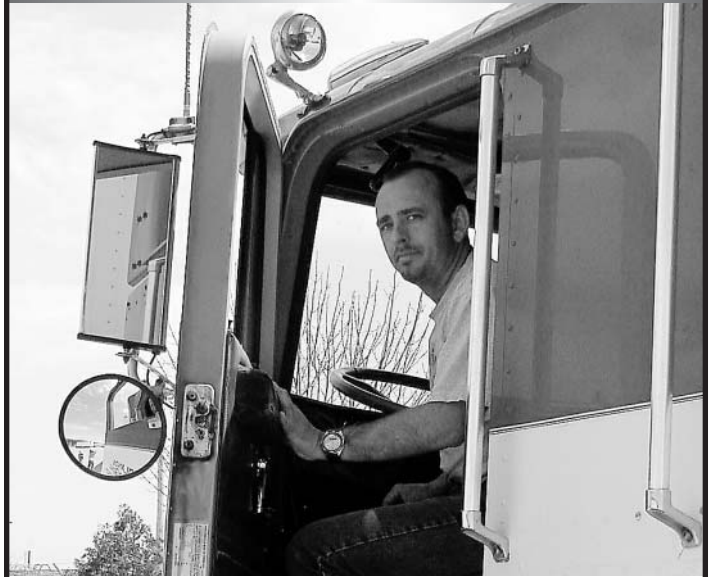
The key reason for most work-zone crashes continues to be drivers' failure to pay attention, according to law enforcement officers' reports. Drivers often contribute to construction zone accidents by speeding, running off the road or crossing into the wrong lane.

More motorists are injured in work-zone accidents than highway workers. Therefore, drivers need to stay alert when driving near highway construction sites any time of day. Drivers should observe lower speed limits, heed posted warning signs and be alert for variations of the roadway in work zones.

Roads Department and contractors' employees are at risk when working near moving traffic. In recent years, highway work-zone crashes have injured and claimed the lives of Department of Roads workers. The Roads Department wants to ensure the safety of its employees, contractor's personnel and motorists with public awareness of the need for *extra* caution when navigating highway work zones.

It is important to remember that highway work zones are much more than a temporary inconvenience. Work zones are essential to building safer, smoother, improved roads that may ultimately save lives. *Remember: when you're in the driver's seat, you make the difference. Drive safely in work zones.* ♦

Safety is No Accident.



When you're in the driver's seat,
You make the difference!

Drive Smart thru Work Zones!

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

www.nebraskatransportation.org

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 6-12, 2003

Safety Tips to Live By

- **Stay alert.**
Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- **Pay close attention.**
Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- **Turn on your headlights.**
Workers and other motorists must see you.
- **Don't tailgate.**
- **Don't speed.**
Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.
- **Keep up with the traffic flow.**
- **Don't change lanes in the work zone.**
- **Minimize distractions.**
Avoid changing radio stations and using mobile phones while driving in the work zone.
- **Expect the unexpected.**
Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- **Be patient.**
Remember the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

Paving Awards Presented in Kearney

Several project managers were honored with awards for both concrete and asphalt pavements at the annual Project Managers Conference held March 4 - 6 in Kearney. The awards recognized their work on Nebraska highways and municipal streets during 2002.

The Nebraska Department of Roads presented awards for outstanding asphalt pavement smoothness. Awards of excellence for highway construction projects using concrete pavement were presented by the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska Concrete Paving Association.

Concrete Pavement Quality

There were two winners for excellence in Interstate and Expressway concrete pavement. The first award was presented to Project Manager Steven Trosper of the District 3 Columbus Office for the US-30 Columbus East Expressway project. Cedar Valley Corp. of Waterloo, Iowa, was the contractor. Larry Legg of Roadway Design Division coordinated the project design.

District 6 Project Manager Rich Morrell of North Platte, and Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad were presented the second award for the ramp and loop construction on the North Platte I-80 Interchange. Khalil Jaber of Roadway

Design Division coordinated the project design.

Project Manager Toby Thomsen of District 6 at North Platte and Paulsen, Inc., of Cozad received the award in the Parking Lot category for the excellent concrete pavement constructed on the North Platte I-80 Truck Scales project. Tim McCarthy coordinated the project design for the Roadway Design Division.

Also honored in the Municipal category were Project Manager Scott Griepenstroh of District 4 at Grand Island and Werner Construction, Inc. of Hastings for quality construction on the US-30 Grand Island East project. Daniel Rea coordinated the project for the Roadway Design Division.

Morrell Named Project Manager of the Year

Rich Morrell was honored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) as Nebraska Department of Roads' Project Manager of the Year. Morrell received a traveling trophy and a plaque during the Project Manager's Conference in Kearney on March 6.

Morrell has worked at NDOR for 33 years and has been a project manager at the District 6 construction office in North Platte since 1988. One of his more prominent projects was the Ogallala Interstate 80 interchange reconstruction, which started in 1999 and was completed in 2001. The project also involved reconstruction of sections of Highways 26 and 30.

Morrell also guided reconstruction of the Interstate bridge approaches near Ogallala after they were washed out in a July 6 flash flood, causing the closure of a 7-mile stretch of the Interstate, between the Ogallala and Brule interchanges.

According to District 6 Engineer, Les O'Donnell, "The 24-hour operation with several contractors and a large amount of construction equipment working in a confined space without a single equipment or personal injury accident is a tribute to Mr. Morrell's leadership and attention

to safety. His knowledge of partnering allows him the ability to communicate with all stakeholders and provide a team effort to reach a common goal."

District 6 Construction Engineer Gary Thayer said Morrell's leadership abilities are second to none, noting his peers utilize his background and knowledge of highway construction as a sounding board for project problem solving, thus improving every project in the district.

The award is presented annually by the AGC to a NDOR project manager who has upheld the standards of conducting business within the highway construction industry with the highest level of ethics and integrity. The trophy is called the Lyle Leader Memorial Award in tribute

to Mr. Leader, who was a project manager at NDOR for 34 years. He was active in the District 3 Hartington office at the time of his death in August 1991 and was highly respected by his peers within the department and by the contractor members of AGC.

All contractor members submitted a nomination for this award and the nominees were voted upon by the members of AGC. For the year 2002, Morrell received the high honor. ♦



L to r - Rich Morrell, 2003 Project Manager of the Year; John Chicoine, Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises and Randy Howard, 2003 President AGC.

Pavement smoothness, quality control, innovation, and complexity of the project were considered in determining these awards.

Asphalt Smoothness

The 2001 Asphalt Smoothness Award of Merit for the smoothest individual project went to Project Manager Jerry Woodgate of the District 4 Grand Island office and Dobson Brothers Construction Company of Lincoln for the Gibbon to Shelton project on I-80.

The Award of Merit for the best average of all projects constructed with the smoothness specification in the 2002 season went to LaFarge Corporation & Subsidiaries of Fort Collins, Colorado, for 40.2 miles of

work on two tied projects on I-80 between Sidney and Chappell.

For excellent individual project smoothness, Certificates of Merit were also presented to Project Manager Steve Meyer of District 4 at Hastings and Werner Construction, Inc. for the N-74, Ong Spur to US-81 project; and Project Manager Dennis Custer of District 5 at Bridgeport and LaFarge Corporation & Subsidiaries for the I-80, Sidney - Chappell project.

Paulsen Inc. of Cozad was also recognized with a Special Commendation certificate for their improved asphaltic concrete smoothness results during the 2002 season at the Nebraska Asphalt Paving Conference in Kearney on February 11. ♦

Safety Awards Presented

The 2002 District Construction "Safe Working" and "Safe Driving" Awards were presented at the NDOR Project Manager's Conference in Kearney on March 5. District Construction Engineers accepting the awards on behalf of their respective districts included Mike Sklenar, District 1; Marvin Lech, District 2; Craig Lind, District 5; Kurt Vosburg, District 7; and Mark Kovar, District 8.

District 1 received the "Most Improved Safe Working Award" while District 2 received the "Most Improved Safe Driving Award."

Districts 5 and 8 received the "Safe Working and Safe Driving Awards". District 7 also received the "Safe Working Award" with all three districts having no Lost Time Injury or Preventable Vehicle Accidents among their district construction employees in the year 2002. ♦

Fallaha Honored by ACI

Sam Fallaha, Bridge Design Section Leader at NDOR, received the Tom Reading Achievement Award, given by the Nebraska Chapter of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) for his contributions in the field of concrete in the State of Nebraska. The award was presented during the ACI annual banquet held February 8 in Omaha.

Dr. Maher Tadros, Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, presented a plaque to Fallaha, along with remarks about his contributions. Tadros was Fallaha's professor while he attended UNO and has been a long-time mentor.

Fallaha received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from UNO in 1986, and upon graduation, began his career in construction. In 1990, he came to work in NDOR's Roadway Design Division. In January 1993, he moved to the Bridge Division, where he has been involved in many research and innovative projects for the past 10 years.

Fallaha has contributed significantly to the introduction of high performance concrete, long span concrete bridges, spliced girder bridges, precast concrete deck slabs, and inverted tee bridges. His contributions are not limited to Nebraska, with his influence spreading as far south as Australia and as far north as Alberta, Canada.

In addition to his work responsibilities, Fallaha has served on committees for the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, and the American Association of



Sam Fallaha, NDOR's Bridge Design Section Leader, shown with the Tom Reading Achievement Award he received from the Nebraska Chapter of the American Concrete Institute.

State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). He also contributes his time and expertise in helping with a bridge design class at the university.

The outstanding achievement award, given annually, was named for one of the principal founders of the ACI's Nebraska Chapter. The awards, now in their 12th year, recognize outstanding work in concrete construction and practices within the State of Nebraska. A professional panel representing various disciplines within the concrete industry provided judging. ♦

Following the I-80 Kestrel and Bluebird Trail

By Steve Duecker
NDOR Wetlands Biologist

Alert drivers along Interstate 80 between Omaha and Grand Island may notice some new homes in the area. Kestrel nesting boxes have been built and installed at 10 sites.

Kestrels are small falcons about the size of a dove. They weigh from 3 to 5 ounces and are native to Nebraska. Cavities in trees and occasional nooks of buildings or cliffs are used for nesting. Their diet consists mainly of large insects and mice, although small birds are occasionally taken. Kestrels are very colorful falcons and one of the few raptors in which the male and female have different plumage color. The male kestrels generally select and defend their nesting territory in early March.

In many areas of the country the only area left with habitat that the kestrel can use for hunting is the highway right-of-way. Kestrels are

frequently seen perched or hovering along the roadway hunting. It was found that kestrels would use manmade nest boxes to replace lost nesting sites due to dead tree removal.

A few years ago, several states started placing nest boxes on the backs of highway signs. The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR), in cooperation with the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society, has done this on I-80 for several years. The nest boxes require yearly cleaning and monitoring to prevent European starlings from using the box. The Sierra Club monitored the boxes.

Program Continues

Due to declining use of the boxes and concerns for personnel safety, the Sierra Club decided to remove the boxes from I-80 and terminate the program. However, NDOR felt the program should continue in some fashion. Also, at this time the NDOR was approached by Bluebirds Across Nebraska for permission to place bluebird boxes on I-80.

After meeting with these groups and Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, a plan was devised to place poles for kestrel and bluebird boxes at interchanges and rest areas on I-80 out of the main traffic flow. A design for a new type of tilting kestrel pole was developed and then built by Bluebirds Across Nebraska. This pole will allow boxes to be maintained and monitored without the use of a ladder. Sierra Club and Bluebirds Across

Nebraska will monitor the nest boxes.

The NDOR set 10 kestrel poles in late January at selected sites on I-80 from Gretna to west of York. Bluebirds Across Nebraska set the bluebird boxes and mounted the kestrel nest boxes on the poles.

I-80 Kestrel & Bluebird Trail

Partnering Groups:

- Bluebirds Across Nebraska
- Sierra Club
- The Nebraska Environmental Trust
- Nebr. Game & Parks Commission
- Nebraska Department of Roads

Locations:

- Gretna Interchange
- Melia Rest Area
- Mahoney State Park Interchange
- Waverly Interchange
- Solar Rest Area
- Waco Interchange
- York Rest Area - east & westbound
- Bradshaw Interchange
- Henderson Interchange

Each site has both kestrel and bluebird boxes. They are as far apart from each other as possible. The nesting of both species will overlap, and it is possible, but highly unlikely, that a kestrel could take a bluebird for food. Bluebirds feed on small insects and some seeds.

Boxes Monitored

Kestrels generally lay eggs around the 1st of April, young hatch in 28 to 30 days and generally fledge in 30+ days. Volunteers from Bluebirds Across Nebraska and the Sierra Club will monitor the boxes twice a week until the kestrels have established the box as a nest site. The kestrels and bluebirds will be banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands.

After evaluating this nesting season another 10 kestrel poles will be placed on I-80 from Gretna to Grand Island. Informational kiosks are also being developed for the rest areas along this section of I-80.

Many have contributed to this effort, including Districts 1, 2 and 4, who helped set the poles. The NDOR Arts & Graphics Unit has been instrumental in developing the information displays, and Velta Didrichsons of the Wetlands Unit created a location map of the sites. ♦



Kestrel boxes have been placed at 10 sites along Interstate 80, between Omaha and Grand Island, including this one pictured at the I-80 Waverly Interchange.



Intelligent Transportation Systems Heartland Meets in Omaha

ITS Heartland, a four-state intelligent transportation systems professional association held its fourth annual meeting in Omaha March 12-14. More than 220 transportation professionals from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and the Federal Highway Administration attended the three-day event that featured seminars, workshops and 30 technology vendor displays. An evening reception hosted by the Omaha ITS consulting community was held at the Durham Western Heritage Museum—the former Omaha Union Station.

Dignitaries presenting at the 2003 ITS Heartland Annual Meeting included, Jeff Paniati, Acting Director of the USDOT Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office; NDOR Director John Craig; Assistant United States Attorney General Cheri Nolan; and Neil Schuster, President of ITS America.

The ITS Heartland 2003 Annual Meeting presented a learning

opportunity for more than 50 NDOR employees who attended. In addition to 30 technology vendor displays, conference attendees heard from local, regional and national experts on such topics as traffic incident management, transportation security, ITS in small communities, advanced vehicle systems, ITS benefits, smart work zones, and Amber Alert.

The NDOR Transportation Technology Group and the Mid America Transportation Center worked together to produce and host the ITS

Heartland 2003 Annual Meeting. Nebraska will again host the meeting in 2007. Next year, the meeting will be held at the Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. ♦



Above – More than 220 transportation professionals from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and the Federal Highway Administration attended the fourth annual ITS Heartland meeting March 12-14 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Omaha. They discussed ITS issues and learned about ITS activities in other states.



Left - NDOR Director John Craig provided opening remarks during the ITS Heartland meeting in Omaha. ITS Chapter President Matt Volz, a Senior Systems Engineer with ADDCO, is seated near the award received from ITS America for 2002 Outstanding Chapter, which was presented April 30, 2002 in Long Beach, California.



Blowin' in the Wind ...

Over the past year, orange windsocks have been strategically placed at various locations along Interstate 80 and several other sites. Their purpose is to help truckers know the wind direction and speed so they won't be caught in unexpected crosswinds. When polled by NDOR last year as part of a Werner Enterprises survey, the trucking industry requested windsocks as a low-tech, inexpensive tool to provide a good reference for their operators.

In addition to the windsock pictured, located on Hwy. 77 at the junction of Hwys. 77 and 33, other windsock locations include: I-80 at the Platte River, Waverly interchange and west of the Goehner interchange; Hwy. 31 overpass on I-80 near Gretna; near the Grand Island, Aurora and Shelton interchanges; Hwy. 385 overpass east of Chappell; Tailrace Canal near North Platte; I-80 & I-76 junction near Big Springs. A windsock is also located along Hwy. 20 near Long Pine. Placement of additional windsocks is planned. ♦

Job Directory

NDOR Highway Improvement Projects Currently Under Contract as of 3/14/03

Location Work Description Prime Contractor NDOR Project Manager Contract Amount			
District 1			
Wahoo South Gr, Culv, Seed, Br Hawkins Construction Co. Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850 \$10,598,858.45	Roca Spur Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit Christensen Bros., Inc. Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850 \$1,478,120.53	US-275/Big Papio, Near Jct. N-85, Omaha Br Hawkins Construction Co. Gjersvik, John (402)595-2534 \$1,122,913.17	In Gretna Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co. Weander, Marty (402)595-2534 \$764,280.93
Ceresco - Wahoo Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. & Affiliates Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850 \$13,765,215.42	E. Jct. US-77/N-2 to Dodge Co. Line Conc Pav Ten Point Construction Co., Inc. Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850 \$206,183.10	24th St. Bridge over I-80, Omaha Elec Mcc, L.L.C. Gjersvik, John (402)595-2534 \$66,154.50	72nd St. - Missouri River Bridge Bit Western Engineering Co., Inc. Wilson, Bill (402)595-2534 \$1,487,248.68
Syracuse East & West Landscaping D.F. Lanoha Landscape Nursery, Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$138,495.00	Wymore North & South Bridges Gr, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit Herbst Construction, Inc. Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489 \$2,148,561.59	Ft. Calhoun South Gr, Culv, Gdrl, Bit Western Engineering Co., Inc. Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292 \$1,129,155.72	72nd St., Western Ave. - 76th Dr., Omaha Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co. Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534 \$7,069,253.11
Otoe West Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl Herbst Construction, Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$506,418.96	District 2	Fremont Southeast Bit Western Engineering Co., Inc. Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292 \$642,430.19	Missouri River Br., Omaha Painting W. S. Bunch Co. Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534 \$750,165.70
Davey - Ceresco Landscaping D.F. Lanoha Landscape Nursery, Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$68,524.00	West Dodge Bridge over I-680 Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co. Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534 \$15,694,829.63	60th St. Interchange, Omaha Landscaping Mulhall's Nursery, Inc. Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534 \$113,249.00	Waterloo Northwest Conc Pav Iowa Erosion Control, Inc. Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534 \$323,343.02
Greenwood East Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed Irving F. Jensen Co., Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$2,188,707.29	198th St. - Skyline Dr., Omaha Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign Hawkins Construction Co. Baratta, Joseph (402)595-2534 \$18,371,814.38	13th St. Interchange, Omaha Landscaping Mulhall's Nursery, Inc. Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534 \$122,191.00	District 3
I-80 to Utica Bit Werner Construction, Inc. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$2,787,580.92	Blair - Kennard Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit Luxa Construction Co., Inc. Brown, Darin G (402)727-3292 \$4,244,619.96	60th/"L" St., Omaha Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec Tab Holding Co., Inc. dba Tab Constr. Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534 \$192,934.68	Schuyler Northwest Gr, Br Perrett Construction Ltd. Anderson, David (402)564-5751 \$599,356.50
In Rising City & East Bit Omni Engineering, Inc. & Subsidiaries Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$1,908,965.42	In Gretna & South Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec Hawkins Construction Co. Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534 \$7,341,896.09	Springfield North Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl Mcc, L.L.C. Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534 \$899,718.76	Schuyler East & West Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. & Affiliates Anderson, David (402)564-5751 \$19,184,951.80
Staplehurst Spur Bit Omni Engineering, Inc. & Subsidiaries Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$336,460.25	BNSF/S Papio Creek Bridge Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign Hawkins Construction Co. Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534 \$13,528,580.81	Jct. I-680 - 96th St., Omaha Conc Pav Musselman & Hall Contrs., Llc Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534 \$88,809.08	Creighton to N-121 Bit Brower Construction Co. Becker, Roger (402)254-6552 \$1,208,437.16
N-66 North Bit Omni Engineering, Inc. & Subsidiaries Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$1,129,635.54	N-370 to N-50 Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign Hawkins Construction Co. Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534 \$18,862,392.57	172nd St. to US-6 Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec Luxa Construction Co., Inc. Reasland, Harold (402)595-2534 \$5,463,551.55	Coleridge - Hartington Bit Monarch Oil, Inc. Becker, Roger (402)254-6552 \$249,279.75
Jct US-34/L-80G Elec Watts Electric Co. Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850 \$7,919.60	Fairview Bridge Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl Hawkins Construction Co. Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534 \$1,032,931.44	In Blair Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Fence, Elec Luxa Construction Co., Inc. Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292 \$6,183,447.41	US-20 to N-59 Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Bit Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. & Affiliates Becker, Roger (402)254-6552 \$1,647,544.98
	N-370 to Ruff Road Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign Hawkins Construction Co. Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534 \$39,143,149.79	Waterloo Northwest Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl Hawkins Construction Co. Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292 \$5,077,869.74	Pender Southeast Gr, Br, Gdrl Christensen Bros., Inc. Brummond, Scott (402)375-7071 \$566,762.96
	168th Street Bridge Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl Hawkins Construction Co. Fox, Mike (402)595-2534 \$955,735.90	I-680 to N-36, Omaha Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec Hawkins Construction Co. Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292 \$12,915,674.88	Martinsburg - Ponca Br, Gdrl Herbst Construction, Inc. Brummond, Scott (402)375-7071 \$171,037.25

Orchard East & West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. &
Affiliates
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$3,498,473.27

Norfolk East
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co.
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474
\$18,274,985.53

Tilden North
Gr, Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl
Elk Horn Construction Co.
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474
\$1,415,853.78

Tilden Northeast
Gr, Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474
\$951,589.68

District 3 - Districtwide
Painting
Vogel Traffic Services, Inc.
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474
\$338,305.59

In Decatur
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$2,717,717.15

Wayne East
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Brower Construction Co.
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071
\$4,418,941.08

Niobrara State Park
Gr, Culv, Gdrl, Bit
Knight Asphalt, Inc.
Hausman, Larry (402)254-6552
\$1,212,890.38

Ponca State Park Recreation Rd.
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Henningsen Const., Inc.
Lane, Chris
\$1,600,015.76

N-57 to West Jct N-15
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Muetting, Curt (402)370-3474
\$796,720.66

District 3 - Districtwide
Conc Pav
Musselman & Hall Contrs., Llc
Muetting, Curt (402)370-3474
\$343,158.34

West Point North
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Muetting, Curt (402)370-3474
\$2,825,560.32

Pender South
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Muetting, Curt (402)370-3474
\$1,723,825.71

District 3 - Districtwide
Bit
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Schulz, Ron (402)370-3474
\$90,250.86

Columbus Northwest
Landscaping
D.F. Lanoha Landscape
Nursery, Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$86,325.00

Columbus South
Br
Dixon Construction Co.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$990,505.49

Tarnov South
Landscaping
Gross Seed Co., Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$88,824.11

N-45 To US-81
Bit
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. &
Affiliates
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$2,059,726.96

Albion Southeast
Bridge
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751
\$300,406.20

Crofton North
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$4,203,935.00

Jackson East Bridge
Br
Cramer & Associates, Inc.
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$187,411.00

US-20 to Missouri River Bridge
Conc Pvmnt Repair
American Civil Constructors, Inc.
& Subsidiaries
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552
\$365,765.43

District 4

In Waco
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv
Paulsen, Inc.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$857,029.49

Deshler East
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$1,094,967.63

Henderson - Waco
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934
\$6,790,024.71

Chester - Hebron
Landscaping
Gross Seed Co., Inc.
Cuda, Bill (402)362-5934
\$99,926.60

Hebron - Belvidere
Landscaping
Gross Seed Co., Inc.
Cuda, Bill (402)362-5934
\$62,666.00

Odessa Interchange Bridge
Br
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$164,571.60

Elm Creek Viaduct
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
United Contractors, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$4,282,819.97

In Shelton
Gr, Br, Gdrl
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$344,437.37

Miller North
Bit
Dustrol, Inc.
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434
\$124,294.56

Grand Island East
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265
\$2,455,189.41

I-80/US-34/281 Interchange
Landscaping
Gross Seed Co., Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265
\$36,364.20

Fullerton Northeast
Br, Gdrl
M.E. Collins Contr. Co., Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265
\$180,342.60

Fullerton South
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Bit
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265
\$1,067,266.84

Alda - Grand Island
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265
\$36,910.73

N-2 Over I-80
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6265
\$1,487,344.88

Central City East
Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Heermann, Dennis (308)385-6265
\$1,847,783.03

In Dannebrog
Br
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Heermann, Dennis (308)385-6265
\$407,600.55

Geneva North & South
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$16,859,071.23

Geneva North & South
Seeding
Nebraska Hydro-Seeding Co.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$110,017.00

Shelton - Wood River
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$2,564,644.02

Minden - Gibbon
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996
\$1,473,941.23

US-81 - Reynolds
Gdrl, Bit
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. &
Affiliates
Kuper, Melvin (402)729-3489
\$1,967,784.74

Jct. US-30/N-92
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Hawkins Construction Co.
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411
\$3,093,801.73

Arcadia East & West
Bit
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. &
Affiliates
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411
\$733,444.97

Cotesfield North & South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Bit
Dobson Bros. Constr. Co. &
Affiliates
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411
\$1,623,386.61

Lawrence East
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$5,644,665.62

Red Cloud West
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996
\$857,740.24

Strang North & South
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Ruxton, Bob (402)462-1996
\$8,708,874.79

Chester North Shrp Section
Conc Pav
Werner Construction, Inc.
Ruxton, Bob (402)462-1996
\$1,208,724.06

Ong West
Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Ruxton, Bob (402)462-1996
\$197,302.42

Grand Island South Viaduct
Br
Wilke Contracting Corporation
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6265
\$212,144.75

Grand Island South
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Br,
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign
Werner Construction, Inc.
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6265
\$9,800,324.79

Prosser North
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
The Diamond Engineering Co.
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6265
\$613,457.24

In Scotia
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec
Werner Construction, Inc.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$1,832,596.16

Wolbach West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$2,308,111.47

S. Jct. N-91/US-281 to
Boone Co. Line
Bit
Topkote, Inc.
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888
\$101,587.04

Pleasanton North & South
Gr, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Wilke Contracting Corp.
Zaruba, Arlen (308)728-5655
\$2,350,966.50

District 5

Scottsbluff/Sioux Co. Line North
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Applegate, Joe (308)632-7727
\$2,007,202.24

Crawford South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$5,521,752.96

Niobrara River South of Rushville
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Perrett Construction Ltd.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$2,690,897.68

In Chadron
Conc Pav
Dana Fuller dba Fuller Constr.
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$96,440.50

Ellsworth - Gordon
Gr, Culv, Bit
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144
\$2,300,897.21

In Bridgeport
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Custer, Dennis (308)262-1920
\$730,732.66

Oshkosh North
Bit
Brown & Brown, Inc.
Custer, Dennis (308)262-1920
\$573,920.99

Minatare East
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Fast, Dean (308)632-7727
\$2,715,552.05

Scottsbluff-Minatare Irrig. Struc.
Culv
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Fast, Dean (308)632-7727
\$334,843.30

Scottsbluff - Minatare
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Seed, Elec
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Fast, Dean (308)632-7727
\$8,552,774.73

In Alliance
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Elec
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Frickey, Russ (308)262-1929
\$1,957,596.79

Melbeta West
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Gardner, Jerrold (308)632-1429
\$2,692,228.41

Harrison Northeast
Br
Perrett Construction Ltd.
Gardner, Jerrold (308)632-1429
\$448,691.06

Harrisburg Spur North
Bit
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Gardner, Jerrold (308)632-1429
\$385,949.80

Oshkosh - Lewellen
Bit
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Smith, Don (308)262-1920
\$395,325.74

Chappell WB Rest Area
Bldg. Construction
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.
Smith, Don (308)262-1920
\$185,353.97

Chappell EB Rest Area
Bldg. Construction
M.E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.
Smith, Don (308)262-1920
\$182,992.25

Sidney-Sunol (WB)
Conc Pav
Musselman & Hall Contrs., Llc
Smith, Don (308)262-1920
\$116,463.08

District 6

Sutherland West
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv,
Seed, Gdrl, Fence
Cement Products, Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$1,003,601.75

Maxwell - Brady
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$3,389,572.84

Gothenburg South
Br
Wilke Contracting Corporation
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$401,809.95

Gothenburg East
Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl
BRB Contractors, Inc.
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$1,686,626.59

Sutherland - Hershey
Conc Pav
Musselman & Hall Contrs, Llc
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$412,668.92

Western Canal Br. West of Ogallala
Gr, Conc Pav, Br, Gdrl, Fence
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033
\$1,420,829.66

Tryon Northwest
Bit
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Halstead, Kerri (308)535-8031
\$438,034.10

Ringgold North
Bit
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Halstead, Kerri (308)535-8031
\$800,867.33

Cozad Southeast
Culv, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Halstead, Kerri (308)535-8031
\$385,157.17

Halsey North
Bit
Constructors, Inc.
Halstead, Kerri (308)535-8031
\$371,856.04

Sutherland Viaduct
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Capital Contractors, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8031
\$4,410,332.06

US-83, North Platte Interchange
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv,
Seed, Gdrl, Fence, Sign
Paulsen, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8031
\$3,289,838.98

Newberry Interchange, No. Platte
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Gdrl, Elec
Cement Products, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8031
\$719,586.85

District 6 - Districtwide
Conc Pav
Iowa Erosion Control, Inc.
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8031
\$143,620.34

Brule Link West Jct.
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$1,186,269.28

Brule - Ogallala
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$2,017,141.00

Ogallala Northeast
Bit
Micheels Construction Co.
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033
\$39,196.90

North Platte Truck Scales
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv,
Fence, Bldg, Elec, Sign
Paulsen, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$5,930,442.78

Sutherland W.B. Rest Area
Bldg Construction
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$687,900.00

Sutherland E.B. Rest Area
Bldg Construction
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$684,300.00

Brady East
Conc Pav
Diamond Surface, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$1,889,966.54

Cozad - Darr
Conc Pav
Diamond Surface, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$1,903,226.79

Wellfleet North
Bit
Western Engineering Co., Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$1,099,884.36

Hershey - North Platte
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv
Cement Products, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$370,058.98

Statewide I-80 Rest Area Signing
Sign
Garcia-Chicoine Enterprises, Inc.
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033
\$294,700.75

Anselmo - Merna
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Constructors, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$3,986,213.77

Ansley Northeast
Br
County of Custer
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$210,537.93

District 6 - Districtwide
Br, Gdrl
Cement Products, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$178,314.60

Berwyn - Ansley
Conc Pav
Upper Plains Contracting, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$2,664,865.54

Oconto North
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
White, Dennis (308)872-6735
\$9,181,360.56

District 7

Stockville Southwest
Br
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Doyle, Kelly (308)995-5397
\$507,202.99

W. 4th St. - E. 7th St., McCook
Gr, Conc Pav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec
Paulsen, Inc.
Doyle, Kelly (308)995-5397
\$3,189,394.06

Huntley Southeast
Br
L.J. Webb Contractor, Inc.
Kuhn, Kenton (308)995-5397
\$383,928.04

Franklin South
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Quinn, Jerry (308)995-5397
\$3,774,917.37

Holdrege Construction Office
Holdrege Constr. Office Addition
Westland Building Co., Inc.
Quinn, Jerry (308)995-5397
\$97,911.00

In Hendley
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Quinn, Jerry (308)995-5397
\$107,757.76

Funk To N-44
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Quinn, Jerry (308)995-5397
\$2,274,885.15

Orleans East
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit
Werner Construction, Inc.
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397
\$4,813,919.34

Trenton East & West
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$2,663,105.43

Trenton Southeast
Br
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$315,288.89

District 7 - Districtwide
Painting
Vogel Traffic Services, Inc.
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$763,213.73

Danbury Southwest
Br
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490
\$375,836.83

District 8

Stuart North
Br
Christensen Bros., Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$686,849.40

Chambers Northwest
Gr, Br, Gdrl
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.
Colfack, Gene (402)336-2051
\$431,778.07

Crookston - Valentine
Bit
Paulsen, Inc.
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1350
\$1,467,869.66

Wood Lake - Johnstown
Bit
Monarch Oil, Inc.
Rudnick, Michael (402)387-2471
\$345,749.34

District 8 - Districtwide
Painting
Swanston Equip. Co. & Subsidiary
Rudnick, Michael (402)387-2471
\$362,451.98

Key:

Bituminous - Bit
Bridge - Br
Building - Bldg
Concrete Pavement - Conc Pav
Culverts - Culv
Electrical - Elec
Grading - Gr
Guardrail - Gdrl
Seeding - Seeding

TURF & GARDEN

By Dick Gray
Agronomist



Lawns and Trees Require Extra Care

Turf - All current indications are that this will be another dry year. When you are allowed to water your lawn, do it deeply. A deep watering might last until you can water again. Keeping that mower blade super sharp will help avoid stress on the grass. A sharp, clean cut heals very quickly and stops water loss through the cut, preventing disease from entering the wounded area. Keeping your lawn's fertility level up will help your grass do better in a limited water situation. Keeping your cutting height as high as your mower will allow will help keep the roots shaded and help retard water loss. Did you buy a four- or five-step lawn program? Check what they provided for grub control. The best two on the market are Mach II and Merit. Grub-X uses the same chemical as Merit. Diazinon does not work on grubs.

Trees - Since this year is predicted to be a dry one, you may ask, "Should I plant new trees and shrubs?" Yes, go ahead with your landscaping as long as you can

mulch and care for these new plants. Three to four inches of wood chip mulch in a three- to five-foot diameter area around the new trees will really help them through the summer. If you plant a shrub bed, mulch the entire bed and a width of two feet on the outside of the bed. Place one or more "leaky" hoses under the mulch in the shrub bed and water when you can. Always check under the mulch before you water. Over watering probably kills more plants than under watering. Check your evergreen shrubs and spruce trees for spider mites on a weekly basis. Spider mites like dry weather and you can have a population explosion in a very short time. Insecticidal soap will reduce the population very quickly.

Garden - Think color, think "Husker Red," think "Limerock Ruby" coreopsis. This plant tolerates heat and drought, blooms throughout the growing season with red-ruby daisy flowers. The flowers are 1½ inches wide with a yellow center. The plant is upright, mounding and spreading and can get 18 to 22 inches tall and 32 to 36 inches wide. It requires full sun to partial shade; moist, but well-drained soil. Plant your own special leaf lettuce bed. Plant the red, green and purple varieties together in a bed and harvest your own special blend. Put in some beet tops and fresh spinach leaves for a very special salad mix.

General - "Chili's put the heat on cancer." A new study shows a natural substance found in chili peppers kills cancer cells by starving them of oxygen. The study found that a majority of the skin cancer cells exposed to the substance died. If more studies confirm these findings, the compounds may be eventually be used in skin patches or creams that could treat or prevent skin cancers. (From the Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX and published by the Journal of the National Cancer Institute)



By LoyAnn Rossel, RN,COHN-S

Prevent Drowsy Driving with Proper Sleep



How many drivers on the road are under the influence of sleepiness? This should be considered as dangerous as drunken driving. How many Roads employees are at risk of injury from sleepy drivers? More than we want to think about.

According to a recent poll by the National Sleep Foundation almost one in five drivers admit to having fallen asleep behind the wheel. It is estimated to cause 100,000 automobile crashes a year nationwide.

Making do with little sleep has been looked upon as noble, but is quite the opposite. Most people need about eight hours of uninterrupted sleep. Lack of sleep has many downfalls.

Too little sleep can:

- Increase your risk of weight gain. When tired, you tend to crave sweets, starch and salt.
- Suppress your immune system, making you more prone to disease.

- Increase your chances of heart disease. Less sleep can cause an inflammation in the arteries, which may increase the chance of heart attacks.
- Increase your chance of diabetes, by making you more insulin resistant.
- Accelerate the aging process.

Occasionally some employees have to work when they are sleepy, and this usually can't be helped (thanks to Mother Nature). But be aware of how important sleep is, and schedule it in. Remember that sleep, food and air are all equally important.

The first week in April is Sleep Awareness Week. Take time to evaluate your sleep patterns. Keep regular bedtime hours, avoid caffeine in the evening, avoid exercising, alcohol or cigarettes just before bed, and keep your bedroom at a comfortable temperature. To understand more about sleep, log on to www.sleepfoundation.org.

If you are still having problems sleeping, consult with your physician. You may need a medical workup to rule out depression, arthritis, asthma, restless leg syndrome, or sleep apnea (ap-knee-ah) to name a few.

It is estimated that 12 million Americans suffer with sleep apnea, which is a breathing disorder that occurs while sleeping. These people either have long periods of not breathing (up to three minutes), or have such an irregular breathing pattern that they have to slightly awaken (up to 1,200 times a night) to remember to breathe. These people usually respond wonderfully with reconstructive surgery or a C-Pap breathing machine. For more information on sleep apnea go to asaa@sleepapnea.org.

Happy dreams.

National Bike Month/ Bike to Work Week

This year marks the 47th consecutive year the League of American Bicyclists has proclaimed May as National Bike Month. During the month, state and local organizations are invited to join in sponsoring bicycle activities in order to increase awareness and acceptance of bicycling throughout the country. The League is also promoting Bike to Work Week from May 12-16 and Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 16. Employees are encouraged to ride a bike or walk to work during that week.

Bicycling is one of the most popular activities in the United States, with more than 42 million cyclists of all ages enjoying the benefits of this safe, healthy, energy-efficient and cost-effective activity. For the most enjoyable trip possible, bicyclists are encouraged to follow some practical guidelines. Additional information is available at www.bikeleague.org. ♦

Ten Commandments of Bicycling

- Wear a helmet for every ride and use lights at night.
- Conduct an ABC Quick Check before every ride. ("A" is for air; "B" is for brakes; "C" is for cranks, chain and cassette; "Q" is for quick releases; "Check" is for check it over).
- Obey traffic laws: ride on the right, slowest traffic farthest to right.
- Ride predictably and be visible at all times.
- At intersections, ride in the right-most lane that goes in your direction.
- Scan for traffic and signal lane changes and turns.
- Be prepared for mechanical emergencies with tools and know-how.
- Control your bike by practicing bike-handling skills.
- Drink before you are thirsty and eat before you are hungry.
- Have fun.

It's "Great Nebraska Trash-Off" Time

By Denise Wallman
Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

April 12-19 was the 13th Annual "Great Nebraska Trash-Off", sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Roads. During this event, Adopt-a-Highway volunteers from across the state labor long and hard to demonstrate their personal responsibility in keeping Nebraska roadsides clean and litter-free.

This year over 1,300 Adopt-a-Highway groups were given the

opportunity to participate. These groups have adopted approximately 2,600 miles of highway right-of-way in Nebraska.

This annual event is a joint effort between the Department of Roads and Adopt-a-Highway groups. Department of Roads maintenance personnel pick up and dispose of the bags of litter after the Trash-Off. Last year approximately 5,000 volunteers were involved in the Trash-Off and over 1,900 miles of roadsides were cleaned. ♦



NDOR Events Calendar

— April —

- 4 **Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
Meeting 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Examination 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 6-12 **National Work Zone Awareness Week**
- 8 **New Employee Orientation Program**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 11 **Project Scheduling Meeting**
8:30-11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 12-19 **Great Nebraska Trash-Off**
- 17 **Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 18 **Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 18 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 22 **Earth Day**
- 25 **State Holiday – Arbor Day**

— May —

- 2 **Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 3-10 **National Safe Kids Week**
- 6 **New Employee Orientation Program**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 6-7 **Maintenance Conference**
Ramada Inn, Kearney
- 12-16 **National Bike to Work Week**
- 15 **Project Scheduling Meeting**
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666

- 16 **Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 16 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 19-23 **Buckle Up America Week**
- 22 **Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 26 **State Holiday – Memorial Day**

— June —

National Safety Month

- 7 **National Trails Day**
- 10 **New Employee Orientation Program**
NDOR Central Headquarters
Contact Steve Olson @ 479-3601
- 19 **Project Scheduling Meeting**
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 20 **Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Andrew Cunningham @ 479-4569
- 26 **Letting**
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 27 **Hwy. Commission Meeting**
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail lwilson@dor.state.ne.us. Information for the June/July Roadrunner should be received by May 16.